

WV Developmental Disabilities Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Summit Conference Center - Charleston, WV
January 24, 2012

Members present: Greg Bilonick, Sarah Brown, Stefanie Caldwell, Joyce Church, Richard Covert, Ronald Dean, Jeannie Elkins, Betty Holliday, Ann Hubbs, Kelly Miller, Richard Perry, Clark Queen, Jerry Ramsey, Tina Tanner, Amber Hinkle, Clarice Hausch, Jane McCallister, Beth Morrison, Christina Mullins, Pat Nisbet, LuAnn Summers, and Karen Ruddie.

Members absent: Bob Cain, Ginny Gattlieb, Janice Holland, Stephanie Jackson, Karen Robinson, Jim Slinn, Stacey Thomas, Julie McClanahan.

Staff present: Steve Wiseman, Christy Black, Jim Cremeans, Tiffany Wiseman, and Linda Higgs.

Guests: Perry Bryant, West Virginian's for Affordable Health Care, and Brian Holstine, Bureau of Senior Services.

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements: Clark called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves.

Clark announced Stacey was unable to attend due to personal circumstances. He will chair the January 2012 meeting.

Steve reported he and Stacey developed three new workgroups:

1. Cross-Disability Advocacy Group – group will determine how Council will meet federal requirement of this activity;
2. Employment First – group will make recommendations on how to proceed with Employment First initiative;
3. Self-Protection Training Workgroup – group will develop strategies to increase the capacity of the WV service system to reduce the risk of abuse, and incidence of mistreatment, seclusion and restraint of individuals with DD.

Anyone interested in participating should contact the Council. Additionally, Stacey will also be contacting people to participate.

Mission Statement Reminder: Greg Bilonick read the Council's Mission Statement.

Public Comment: None

Updates from Members Attending National Conferences:

Jeannie reported that she, Jim, and Janice attended the Alliance for Full Participation Summit November 17 -19, 2011 in Arlington, VA. Over 1,200 people attended the event. The goal of the Summit was to see implemented strategies that will lead to a doubling of the percentage of employed people with developmental disabilities by 2015. She stated there were many great speakers of which she would like to see present in WV.

Clark reported that he and Christy attended the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Annual Conference at National Harbor, Maryland, November 15 – 17, 2011. He stated that the focus of the conference was on Employment and Self Advocacy. He also shared that Employment First was discussed, which is the belief that integrated, meaningful employment should be an expected outcome for people with developmental disabilities. Christy discussed the self-advocate presenters who shared their life stories and successes.

Approval of October 26, 2010 Meeting Minutes:

Tina pointed out a correction needed on page 8 – the date should be 2012, not 2011. **Ron moved and Greg seconded the motion to accept the Minutes as corrected. Motion passed.**

Bureau for Public Health, Maternal, Child & Family Health (MCFH) - Christina Mullins:

Christina outlined and discussed the MCFH service delivery methods and key programs for people with disabilities: Children with Special Health Care Needs, Fostering Healthy Kids, Birth to Three program, Health Check, Oral Health/Donated Dentures, Family Planning, Right from the Start, Newborn Metabolic Screening, and Newborn Hearing Screening.

Ann expressed a concern that toddlers need to be screened as well. Young children have high susceptibility to infectious diseases, some of which cause hearing loss.

Department of Education (DOE), Office of Special Programs, Extended and Early Learning - Karen Ruddle:

At the Office of Special Programs, Karen reported that although she has a primary focus on secondary education, she works with many other departments, teachers, special education directors, and transition coordinators. She also discussed the core indicators data collection, reviewed the WV State DOE website, and shared two sites helpful to students with disabilities considering post-secondary schools – www.cfwb.com and www.thinkcollege.net.

New Business

Appointment of Nominating Committee:

Steve informed Members that Christina Mullins, Sarah Brown, and Jeannie Elkins agreed to serve as the Nominating Committee. Stacey has appointed these individuals to service in this

regard. The Nominating Committee will be responsible for recommending individuals to the Council as new members.

Steve reported the Council has six upcoming vacancies. Solicitation of applications will soon be advertised by newspaper, website, facebook, email, and word-of-mouth. The Committee will consider several factors such as demographic representation when considering potential Council Member nominations.

Change to West Virginians for Affordable Health Care (WVAHC) Grant: Steve reported that there is uncertainty around the Affordable Care Act and changes that may be made to it. Because of this, he recommends waiting to complete the DVD and Discussion Guide portion of the grant. This may require parts of the grant to be carried over into next fiscal year. Steve will keep the Council informed of the situation.

Update on new 5 year State Plan Development: Jim informed Members the Plan was Peer Reviewed for the first time and received high marks. He shared comments received regarding strengths and weaknesses and the Council's next steps.

Bureau of Senior Services (BOSS) – Brian Holstine:

Brian provided background information about BOSS. He also discussed the purpose, key functions of, and programs provided under the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), State Health Insurance Assistance Program, Federally Funded In-Home Care Programs, State Funded In-Home Programs, and other programs the Bureau oversees.

Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) – Pat Nisbet:

Pat showed Members how to navigate the DHHR website to find the BMS website. She provided background information and the BMS Mission, and discussed BMS organization and funding. She also gave an overview of Health Care Reform and how it will impact Bureaus within the WV Department of Health and Human Services.

New Business (Continued)

FFY 2011 PPR Submission – Jim Cremeans:

Jim reported the FFY 2011 PPR was submitted on December 31, 2011. It is being reviewed by ADD, and the Council should receive feedback within the month. He also reported that this document is used to determine if the Council is meeting its mandates under the DD Act.

Legislative Update: Christy Black provided Members with an update on the current legislative session. She informed Members that the legislative session just started and will end on March 10. The majority of the bills of interest to the Council are carry over bills – one bill in particular is HB 2021 – Medication Administration by Unlicensed [but trained] Personnel. Christy reported she will continue following all legislation of interest to the Council and provide updates.

West Virginian's for Affordable Health Care (WVAHC) – Perry Bryant:

Perry gave an overview of the new changes in place in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). He also elaborated on the need to have further understanding of the details of the essential benefits and the insurance exchanges prior to moving forward in developing a DVD as part of the grant.

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) – LuAnn Summers

LuAnn shared the Mission of DRS and discussed strategies used to meet its Mission. She also provided background information regarding DRS and the two major programs it oversees: Vocational Rehabilitation program and the Disability Determination section. Lastly, she reported that the School Transition to Employment Project (funded by the Council for three years) now receives funding from DRS and was submitted to the Community Inclusion Institute for Best Practice. The project was selected and will be presented in other states. Lastly, she reported on community grants the agency has made as a result of the closure of the Rehabilitation Center.

Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) – Jane McCallister

Jane reviewed the Mission and Vision of the Bureau. She explained there are three divisions within the Bureau and described the areas of 'expertise' for each. The BCF works with many other Bureaus to carry out investigations and related activities. Jane also mentioned how the Bureau contracts with the WVUCED, Potomac Center, and Braley and Thompson to provide Specialized Family Based Care services.

Developmental Disabilities (DD) Division/Bureau for Health and Health Facilities – Beth Morrison

Beth reported the DD Division has an assignment to develop a new direction with emphasis on serving individuals not eligible for the WV I/DD Waiver program. She also reviewed current initiatives and activities to improve and standardize evidence-based process of assessment and service planning within the DD Division and standardize and automate intake within the strengths-based, person-centered Bureau.

Other Business

Members' Comments/Concerns:

Richard shared a recent experience involving a neighbor and his daughter who has a disability. The father recently developed medical issues and, fortunately, program supports were established just prior. The daughter has moved into her own apartment and has positive things to focus on during this hard time. The father is relieved to have arrangements in place.

Jerry reported that he has a new job at Marshall University through ETNA. He really enjoys it.

Joyce brought to the Council Member's attention that there are positive ads by Target and Macy's airing now concerning the inclusion of children with DD.

Karen Ruddle expressed her frustration that some families must homeschool their children because the school cannot/will not work with the family. This is an area of concern that needs to be addressed. Steve stated that it is even more upsetting when a family is forced to homeschool to protect their child from abuse from a school aide (and the principal fails to adequately address the situation).

Betty expressed her concern and difficulty in getting aides to challenge students academically and on grade level. Tina agreed and shared that her teachers, other than one junior high teacher, did not challenge her.

Kelly reported that she may be forced to homeschool her child because she is withdrawing and refusing to go to school. She stated the school personnel will not acknowledge concerns or work with her. Karen recommended Kelly request mediation and then file a State Complaint, if needed.

Emergency Planning – Beth Morrison and Jo Ann Fleming, Bureau for Behavior Health

Jo Ann reported Disaster Plans must be developed for all who are served by the DD Division. She would like to explore how those served by the DD Division want to be assisted in an emergency situation. Communication tools and strategies need to be developed and put into place. Steve reported WVATS has a mini-grant to help simplify applications and access, Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley provides emergency preparedness training to individuals with developmental disabilities, families, and providers, and all Behavioral Health Providers are required to assist/develop emergency preparedness plans for the individuals they serve. Amber shared her concern that staff may leave the person they support if their family is at risk of being in danger. She also stated all Behavioral Health Providers need to be involved with CERT to ensure consistency.

Staff updates and Upcoming Events

Linda reviewed the Designated Stipends Chart showing all groups the Council has provided Designated Stipend funds in FY 2012 (information was also in Members' Packets). She also shared that three workshops which will be provided by the Council this spring include:

Alternatives to Guardianship

Monday, April 2 at the Bridgeport Conference Center

Tuesday, April 3 at the Judge Black Center, Parkersburg, WV

Wednesday, April 4 at the Blessed John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston, WV

Wills and Special Needs Trusts

Tuesday, May 1, Holiday Inn and Suites, South Charleston, WV (formerly South Charleston Ramada)

Social Role Valorization

Monday, May 14 through Thursday, May 17, at the Summit Conference Center, Charleston, WV

Steve reported that a Self-Advocacy Summit, sponsored by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), will be in Baltimore, Maryland on March 19-20, 2012. Greg and he will represent the DD Council on West Virginia's Team. Christy is coordinating logistics for Team Members.

Christy reported she recently attended Disability Advocacy Day at the Capitol and will continue to monitor bills at the legislative session. She also reported things are going well with Partners in Policymaking and is looking forward to the next four sessions.

Jim reported that he is waiting for feedback on the FFY 2011 PPR and will report back to the Council. He also reported the Parent's Advocacy Guide, a collaborative project with WVA, should be complete very soon.

Tiffany reported she completed an article titled, "Empowered. Independent. Productive." that was included in the Young Guns edition of WV Executive magazine. She also reported the Council's 2012 Legislative Statements document is complete and being distributed.

Feedback Forms: Clark asked Members to please complete and return the Council feedback forms prior to leaving.

Adjournment: By acclamation.

Next Meeting: April 10, 2012, Waterfront Place Hotel, Morgantown, WV.